

HOUSE BILL 1253

P1

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By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Community Initiative)**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2011

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on African American History and Culture – Members and Duties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the number of members of the Commission on African
4 American History and Culture; altering the duties of the Commission;
5 specifying the terms of certain members of the Commission; and generally
6 relating to the Commission on African American History and Culture.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 9.5–403 and 9.5–407
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – State Government**

15 9.5–403.

16 (a) The Commission consists of [nine] **21** members appointed by the
17 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

18 (b) The members shall:

19 (1) represent the entire community of the State;

20 (2) know about African American culture and history;

21 (3) be sensitive to the problems of minority communities; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) be connected with agencies working to integrate minority history
2 and culture into the history of the State and American culture.

3 (c) (1) The term of a member is 4 years.

4 (2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms
5 provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 2005, **AND OCTOBER 1, 2011.**

6 (3) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for
7 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

8 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a member
9 may be reappointed.

10 (2) A member who has served two consecutive four-year terms may
11 not be reappointed until at least one year has elapsed after the end of the previous
12 term.

13 (e) The Governor may remove a member for incompetence or misconduct.

14 9.5–407.

15 The Commission shall:

16 (1) initiate, direct, and coordinate projects that further the
17 understanding of African American history and culture;

18 (2) [survey historic buildings, sites, artifacts, archives, and
19 repositories, and publish and disseminate the results;

20 (3) plan, coordinate, and implement the State’s annual official
21 observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday;

22 (4)] receive and administer any available federal, **STATE**, or private
23 money to plan and execute [commemorative and] **PROJECTS OR** educational activities
24 [in connection with the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday] **THAT**
25 **FURTHER THE UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND**
26 **CULTURE;**

27 [(5)] **(3)** operate the Banneker–Douglass Museum in Annapolis to
28 house and display photographs, objects, oral history tapes, artifacts, and other
29 materials of African American historic and cultural significance;

30 [(6)] **(4)** locate, preserve, and disseminate to the public information
31 about significant buildings and sites relating to African American history and culture;
32 and

1 **[(7) (5)]** publish an annual report and any other material that the
2 Commission considers necessary.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the
4 members initially serving on the Commission on African American History and
5 Culture in positions added to the Commission under Section 1 of this Act shall expire
6 as follows:

7 (1) four members in 2013;

8 (2) four members in 2014; and

9 (3) four members in 2015.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2011.